

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 2 (withdrawn).

Claim 3 (previously amended): A slurry comprising from about 50 to about 80% by weight of substantially spherical alkali metal bicarbonate particles, said particles having a median particle size of from about 0.2 to about 50.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and a surface area of from about 120 to about 140  $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ , dispersed in a liquid medium, wherein the slurry has a loose bulk density of about 1.40 to about 1.60 grams per mL and a Zeta potential of about 2 to about 11 mV, wherein the slurry is stable and is prepared in the absence of a suspending aid.

Claim 4 (original): The slurry of claim 3, wherein the alkali metal bicarbonate particles have a median particle size of from about 0.2 to about 25.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 5 (original): The slurry of claim 4, wherein the alkali metal bicarbonate particles have a median particle size of from about 0.5 to about 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 6 (previously presented): The slurry of claim 5, wherein the slurry comprises from about 60 to 75% by weight of alkali metal bicarbonate and from about 20% to about 40% by weight of liquid medium, based upon 100% total weight of the slurry.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The slurry of claim 6 1, wherein the slurry comprises from about 60 to about 75% by weight of alkali metal bicarbonate and from about 25 to about 40% by weight of liquid medium, based upon 100% total weight of the slurry.

Claim 8 (original): The slurry of claim 7, wherein the slurry comprises from about 65 to about 72% by weight of alkali metal bicarbonate and from about 28 to about 45% by weight of liquid medium, based upon 100% total weight of the slurry.

Claim 9 (original): The slurry of claim 8, wherein the slurry comprises about 70% by weight of alkali metal bicarbonate and about 30% by weight of liquid medium, based upon 100% total weight of the slurry.

Claim 10 (original): The slurry of claim 3, wherein the liquid medium is water.

Claim 11 (original): The slurry of claim 3, wherein the alkali metal bicarbonate particles are sodium bicarbonate particles.

Claim 12 (original): The slurry of claim 3, wherein the alkali metal bicarbonate particles have an IR spectra shown in Fig. 1.

Claim 13 (original): The slurry of claim 3, wherein the slurry has a viscosity of less than about 1,000 cP.

Claim 14 (original): A method of using the slurry of claim 3 comprising (1) incorporating said slurry with other materials to form a bicarbonate containing product selected from the group consisting of a dialyzate, a toothpaste, a personal cleanser, a chewing gum, an antacid, a mouthwash, a deodorant, a detergent, a skin care product, a household cleanser, an industrial cleaner, a blasting medium, an animal feed product, a baking product and a pesticidal product by dissolving from about 10.00 to about 12.00% by weight of the slurry in about 88 to 92% by weight of additional water, based upon 100% total weight of the slurry and additional water to form an aqueous dilution, and (2) further incorporating said other materials.

Claim 15 (amended): The method of claim 14, wherein said ~~solution~~ bicarbonate containing product is a dialyzate.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein said slurry is diluted.

Claims 17-22 (withdrawn).

Claim 23 (original): A product comprising the slurry of claim 3, wherein the product is selected from the group consisting of a dialyzate, a toothpaste, a personal cleanser, a chewing gum, an antacid, a mouthwawsh, a deodorant, a detergent, a skin care product, a household cleaner, an industrial cleaner, a blasting medium, an animal feed product, a baking product and a pesticidal product.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The product of claim 23, further comprising an adjuvant selected from the group consisting of fragrances, colorants, surfactants, ~~suspending agents~~, buffers, abrasives, antioxidants, anticorrosives, bacteriocides, fungicides, antiseptics, astringents, humectants, tartar control agents, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 25 (original): The product of claim 23, wherein the liquid medium is selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, glycols, and mixtures thereof.